

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 12177 071803Z

67

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 DRC-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ACDA-10 MC-02 /069 W

----- 027516

R 071625Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 674

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS PINS LE IS

SUBJECT: LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER INCIDENTS

REF: DAO BEIRUT 0661 OCT 74

DAO BEIRUT 0664 OCT 74

1. WE HOPE THAT LEBANESE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES INFLICTED DURING OCT. 5 IDF SHELLING OF CENTRAL-SECTOR BORDER TOWN OF BLIDA (REFTEL) WERE INADVERTENT, AND THAT ISRAELIS HAVE NOT RPT NOT GONE SO FAR AS TO ADOPT DELIBERATE POLICY OF TARGETTING ON CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING THEIR AVOWED PROMISE TO USE "ALL AVAILABLE MEANS" TO PREVENT TERRORIST INCURSIONS FROM LEBANON. IN ANY EVENT, RECENT INTENSIFICATION OF IDF HARASSMENT AND INTERDICTION ACTIVITY IN BLIDA-AITAROUN-AITA ASH SHAAB AREA WAS ALMOST BOUND TO PRODUCE ACCIDENTAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES SOONER OR LATER, JUST AS HAS HAPPENED ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON FROM TIME TO TIME IN PAST.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 12177 071803Z

2. TO BEST OUR (AND LEBANESE G-2'S) KNOWLEDGE, OCT. 5 SHELLING OF BLIDA AND VICINITY WAS NOT IN RETALIATION FOR ANY PARTICULAR

FEDAYEEN ACTION, ALTHOUGH PAST WEEK SAW AT LEAST ONE ABORTIVE FEDAYEEN CROSS-BORDER FORAY REPORTED IN ISRAELI PRESS (DAO BEIRUT 650). HOWEVER, GIVEN IDF'S STANDING PRACTICE OF TRYING TO INHIBIT FEDAYEEN OR AT LEAST KEEP THEM OFF BALANCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, QUESTION OF PROVOCATION HAS LONG SINCE BECOME ACADEMIC.

3. IF ONLY FOR RECORD, WE NOTE THAT RECURRENT GROUND AND AIR ACTIONS ACROSS LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER SINCE BEGINNING OF 1974 HAVE CLAIMED TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 45 ISRAELIS KILLED AND 96 WOUNDED (AGAIN, MOST OF THEM CIVILIANS) AND AT LEAST 123 PALESTINIANS KILLED AND UPWARDS OF 400 WOUNDED (PRECISE FEDAYEEN LOSSES, WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY FORM PART OF LATTER FIGURES, ARE UNKNOWN). ONLY RESULT OF THIS GRUESOME TOLL TO DATE HAS BEEN INTENSIFICATION OF FEDAYEEN BRAVADO AND IDF DETERMINATION TO PUNISH THEM WITH INCREASING SEVERITY. WHILE THOSE LEBANESE CIVILIANS WHO STILL INHABIT BORDER AREAS (MANY OF THEIR NEIGHBORS HAVE LONG SINCE FLED NORTH FOR SAFETY) HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY ANGRY AT FEDAYEEN, GOL AND ISRAELIS (NOT ALL NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER) FOR BRINGING ADDITIONAL MISERY TO THEIR DAILY LIVES, THERE APPARENTLY IS LITTLE THEY CAN DO TO IMPROVE SITUATION. AS FOR GOL, ITS INABILITY AND/OR UNWILLINGNESS BOTH TO INTERDICT FEDAYEEN BORDER ACTIVITY MORE EFFECTIVELY AND TO PROTECT ITS POPULATION AGAINST ISRAELI REPRISALS HAS LONG BEEN PATENT, AND WE SEE NO SIGN THAT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS IS LIKELY TO CHANGE IN FORE-SEEABLE FUTURE.

GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REVANCHISM, PARAMILITARY FORCES, CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT12177
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740284-0321
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741068/aaaacgbv.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DAO BEIRUT 0661 OCT 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER INCIDENTS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, LE, IS
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005